

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-14 NSC-10 L-03

H-02 RSR-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 /087 W

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R 201517 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8814

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJECT: CURRENT AVIATION MATTERS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT PLEASED WITH CAB APPROVAL OF TWA CONTRACT AND WITH NTSB PARTICIPATION IN KANO ACCIDENT INQUIRY. MOT EXPECTS THAT IMMINENT ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF AIRWORTHINESS FOR ITS BOEINGS WILL PERMIT EARLY ENTRY OF THESE PLANES INTO SERVICE IN NIGERIA. THERE IS LITTLE HOPE FOR EARLY APPROVAL OF PANAM REQUEST FOR AN ALL- FREIGHT SERVICE ON LAGOS- NEW YORK- LAGOS ROUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DISCUSSION WITH TRANSPORT DEPPERMSSEC OBI ON ANOTHER MATTER, EMBASSY OFFICER HAD A CHANCE FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION OF FOLLOWING POINTS OF CURRENT MUTUAL INTEREST IN AVIATION:

(A) TWA CONTRACT: OBI SAID FMG HAS NO PROBLEM WITH CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO CAB DECISION APPROVING TWA CONTRACT TO MANAGE NIGERIA AIRWAYS. HE PRESUMES THAT IS NEED FOR MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS ARISES (WHICH HE DOES NOT NOW FORESEE), CAB WILL CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR REVISIONS ON THEIR MERITS. HE NOTED AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT' S EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION URGING APPROVAL OF CONTRACT.

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(B) NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB):
OBI NOTED THAT REVELATION OF DEFICIENCIES AT KANO AIRPORT AND ENSUING PUBLICITY EMANATING FROM ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION HAVE MADE IT URGENT TO GET EARLY FAA ASSISTANCE. HE SAID NTSB HELP IN INVESTIGATION HAS EASED A DIFFICULT TASK AND HE SAID HE WISHED ESPECIALLY TO THANK ARNOLD HOLSTINE OF NTSB, WHO HAS DONE MUCH MORE THAN COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED OF A FOREIGN EXPERT PARTICIPATING IN AN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION NOT INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CARRIER IN NIGERIA.

(C) CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS: OBI SAID THAT HE BELIEVES A SOLUTION IS WELL ADVANCED ON IMMEDIATE PROBLEM REGARDING CERTIFICATION THREE NEW BOEINGS AS ARB INSPECTORS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN SEATTLE FOR THIS TASK. LONGER TERM PROBLEMS REMAIN, BUT HE STILL HOPES TO HAVE US STANDARDS ACCEPTED FOR USE IN NIGERIA. HE COMMENTED THAT CERTIFICATION OF THESE AIRCRAFT HAS TURNED OUT TO BE AN UNEXPECTEDLY THORNY ISSUE THAT HAS CAUSED HIM A LOT OF TROUBLE AND HAS COST FMG A LOT OF MONEY. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO EXPLICITLY, EMBASSY OFFICER GATHERED THAT HE EXPECTS FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION SOON TO USE FAA OPERATING PROCEDURES AS WELL AS FAA AIRWORTHINESS STANDARDS IN NIGERIA.

(D) PANAM: OBI SAID THAT AS HIS CIVIL AVIATION DIVISION IS COMPLETELY PREOCCUPIED WITH TWO ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS, HE HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY IN DETAIL PANAM'S REQUEST FOR A WEEKLY ALL-FREIGHTER SERVICE. HE PROMISED TO HAVE ONE OF HIS OFFICIALS LOOK INTO THIS MATTER BEFORE END OF WEEK BUT SAID THAT, IN CANDOR, HE COULD NOT BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT APPROVAL IN TIME FOR INCLUSION IN PANAM'S SUMMER SCHEDULE COMMENCING END OF APRIL. COMMENT: IF OBI HAS NOT EVEN BEGUN STUDY OF THIS MATTER, IT OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION DEFINITELY DURING NEXT MONTH. HOWEVER, EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP AS OBI INVITED US TO DO.
REINHARDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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